DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 040 719 LI 002 024

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TITLE	National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Act; (House) Conference Report (To Accompany S. 1519).
INSTITUTION	House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. Committee on Education and Labor.
REPORT NO	House-91-1226
PUB DATE	24 Jun 70
NOTE	6p.
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF-$0.25 HC-$0.40
DESCRIPTORS	Conference Reports, Federal Legislation, Financial Support, *Information Centers, *Information Needs, *Information Science, *Libraries, Library Science, National Libraries, National Programs, Planning Commissions, Policy Formation, Program Descriptions, *Use Studies
IDENTIFIERS	*National Commission on Libraries and Information

ABSTRACT

This report provides text of the recommended wording for Bill S. 1519 to establish a National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. Sections of the bill are: (1) citation, (2) statement of policy, (3) Commission established, (4) contributions, (5) functions, (6) membership, and (7) authorizations of appropriations. Also included is a statement of the managers on the part of the House. Other documents on this same legislation are reported in LI 002 018, LI 002 023, and LI 002 025. (MF)

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91ST CONGRESS, 2d Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT No. 91-1226

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE ACT

JUNE 24, 1970.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. PERKINS, from the committee of conference, submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany S. 1519]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1519) to establish a National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment insert the following:

That this Act may be cited as the "National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Act".

STATEMENT OF POLICY

SEC. 2. The Congress hereby affirms that library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people of the United States are essential to achieve national goals and to utilize most effectively the Nation's educational resources and that the Federal Government will cooperate with State and local governments and public and private agencies in assuring optimum provision of such services.

COMMISSION ESTABLISHED

SEC. 3. (a) There is hereby established as an independent agency within the executive branch, a National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission").

(b) The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare shall provide the Commission with necessary administrative services (including those

related to budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, personnel, and procurement) for which payment shall be made in advance, or by reimbursement, from funds of the Commission and such amounts as may be agreed upon by the Commission and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

CONTRIBUTIONS

SEC. 4. The Commission shall have authority to accept in the name of the United States grants, gifts, or bequests of money for immediate disbursement in furtherance of the functions of the Commission. Such grants, gifts, or bequests, after acceptance by the Commission, shall be paid by the donor or his representative to the Treasurer of the United States whose receipts shall be their acquittance. The Treasurer of the United States shall enter them in a special account to the credit of the Commission for the purposes in each case specified.

FUNCTIONS

SEC. 5. (a) The Commission shall have the primary responsibility for developing or recommending overall plans for, and advising the appropriate governments and agencies on, the policy set forth in section 2. In carrying out that responsibility, the Commission shall—

(1) advise the President and the Congress on the implementation of national policy by such statements, presentations, and reports as it deems appropriate;

(2) conduct studies, surveys, and analyses of the library and informational needs of the Nation, including the special library and informational needs of rural areas and of economically, socially, or culturally deprived persons, and the means by which these needs may be met through information centers, through the libraries of elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education, and through public, research, special, and other types of libraries;

(3) appraise the adequacies and deficiencies of current library and information resources and services and evaluate the effectiveness of current library and information science programs;

(4) develop overall plans for meeting national library and informational needs and for the coordination of activities at the Federal, State, and local levels, taking into consideration all of the library and informational resources of the Nation to meet those needs;

(5) be authorized to advise Federal, State, local, and private agencies regarding library and information sciences;

(6) promote research and development activities which will extend and improve the Nations library and information-handling capability as essential links in the national communications networks;

(7) submit to the President and the Congress (not later than January 31 of each year) a report on its activities during the preceding fiscal year; and

(8) make and publish such additional reports as it deems to be necessary, including, but not limited to, reports of consultants, transcripts of testimony, summary reports, and reports of other Commission findings, studies, and recommendations.

(b) The Commission is authorized to contract with Federal agencies and other public and private agencies to carry out any of its functions under subsection (a) and to publish and disseminate such reports, findings, studies, and records as it deems appropriate.

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(c) The Commission is further authorized to conduct such hearings at such times and places as it deems appropriate for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(d) The heads of all Federal agencies are, to the extent not prohibited by law, directed to cooperate with the Commission in carrying out the purposes of this Act.

MEMBERSHIP

SEC. 6. (a) The Commission shall be composed of the Librarian of Congress and fourteen members appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Five members of the Commission shall be professional librarians or information specialists, and the remainder shall be persons having special competence or interest in the needs of our society for library and information services, at least one of whom shall be knowledgeable with respect to the technological aspects of library and information services and sciences. One of the members of the Commission shall be designated by the President as Chairman of the Commission. The terms of office of the appointive members of the Commission shall be five years, except that (1) the terms of office of the members first appointed shall commence on the date of enactment of this Act and shall expire two at the end of one year, three at the end of two years, three at the end of three years, three at the end of four years, and three at the end of five years, as designated by the President at the time of appointment, and (2) a member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of such term.

(b) Members of the Commission who are not in the regular full-time employ of the United States shall, while attending meetings or conferences of the Commission or otherwise engaged in the business of the Commission, be entitled to receive compensation at a rate fixed by the Chairman, but not exceeding the rate specified at the time of such service for grade GS–18 in section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, including traveltime, and while so serving on the business of the Commission away from their homes or regular places of business, they may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons employed intermittently in the Government service.

(c)(1) The Commission is authorized to appoint, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, covering appointments in the competitive service, such professional and technical personnel as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its function under this Act.

(2) The Commission may procure, without regard to the civil service or classification laws, temporary and intermittent services of such personnel as is necessary to the extent authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the rate specified at the time of such service for grade GS–18 in section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, including traveltime, and while so serving on the business of the Commission away from their homes or regular places of business they may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons employed intermittently in the Government service.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 7. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated $500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970, and $750,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971, and for each succeeding fiscal year, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

And the House agree to the same.

CARL D. PERKINS,
JOHN BRADEMAS,
PATSY T. MINK,
OGDEN REID,
WILLIAM A. STEIGER,
Managers on the Part of the House.

CLAIBORNE PELL,
RALPH W. YARBOROUGH,
JENNINGS RANDOLPH,
HARRISON A. WILLIAMS,
EDWARD M. KENNEDY,
WALTER F. MONDALE,
THOMAS F. EAGLETON,
WINSTON L. PROUTY,
J. JAVITS,
PETER H. DOMINICK,
GEORGE MURPHY,
RICHARD SCHWEIKER,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

STATEMENT OF THE MANAGERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

The managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill, S–1519, to Establish a National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and for other purposes, submit the following statement in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the conferees and recommend the accompanying conference report:

The House amendment struck out all of the Senate bill after the enacting clause and inserted a new text. The House recedes from its disagreement to the Senate bill with an amendment which is a substitute for both the Senate bill and the House amendment.

Except for minor clarifying, conforming provisions this statement explains the action of the managers on the part of the House.

The Senate bill established the Commission within the Office of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, while the House amendment established the Commission as an independent agency in the executive branch of the Government. The conference report adopts the provisions of the House amendment.

The two versions of the bill differed with respect to the administrative provisions for the Commission. The conference report adopts the provisions of the House amendment.

The Senate bill authorized the Commission to accept contributions of money and immediately disburse same for the purposes of the Commission. The House amendment did not contain these provisions. The conference report adopts these Senate provisions.

The Senate bill provided that the Commission shall have responsibility for developing or recommending plans for the National policy, while the House amendment limits the function to developing plans. The conference report adopts the provision of the Senate bill.

The Senate bill explicitly included language relating to special library and informational needs of rural areas, while the House amendment did not. The conference report adopts the provision of the Senate bill.

The Senate bill required an appraisal of resources and services, while the House amendment confined the appraisal to resources. The conference report adopts the Senate provision.

The House amendment stated that the Commission shall appraise "deficiences" of library and information resources, as well as their "adequacies", while the Senate bill did not. The conference report adopts the House provision.

The Senate bill required that the Commission advise Federal, State and local agencies regarding libraries and information sciences. The House amendment contained no comparable provision. The conference report contains the provision of the Senate bill but modifies it to authorize, but not to require the Commission to furnish such advice.

The Senate bill required reporting through the Secretary to the President and Congress. The House required reporting directly to the President and Congress. The conference report adopts the provision of the House amendment.

The Senate bill set January 31 as the reporting date, while the House amendment specified January 1. The conference report contains the provisions of the Senate bill.

The House amendment authorized reports in addition to the annual report, while the Senate bill did not. The conference report adopts the provision of the House amendment.

Section 6 of the Senate bill and Section 6 of the House amendment specified the composition and membership of the Commission. They differed in a number of respects and substantively in the following particulars:

(1) Both bills provided for a fifteen member Commission. The Senate bill specified that the Librarian of Congress be a statutory member of the Commission while the House amendment did not.

(2) The Senate bill provided that at least five members of the Commission be professional librarians or information scientists while the House amendment set five as the maximum number of such professionals.

(3) The Senate bill but not the House amendment required that at least one member of the Commission be knowledgeable with respect to the technological aspects of library services.

The conference report rewrites Section 6 with the resolution of these differences as follows:

(1) The conference report provides for a fifteen member Commission and specifies that the Librarian of Congress be one of the members of the Commission with the other members of the Commission being appointed by the President with two to serve initially for one year, three to serve initially for two years, three to serve initially for four years and three to serve initially for five years. After the expiration of such terms the conference report provides that the terms of office of the members of the Commission shall be five years.

(2) The conference report provides that only five members of the Commission shall be professional librarians or information scientists and the remainder shall be persons having a special competence or interest in the needs of our society for library and information services. The conference substitute requires that at least one member of the Commission be knowledgeable with respect to the technological aspects of library services.

The Senate bill increased the authorization to $750,000 in fiscal year 1971, while the House amendment maintained the authorization at $500,000. Both the Senate bill and the House amendment authorized an appropriation of $500,000 for fiscal year 1970. The Senate limited the appropriation in the following fiscal years to $750,000 each year. The House amendment placed no ceiling on appropriations for fiscal years after fiscal year 1970. The conference report adopts this provision of the Senate bill.

CARL D. PERKINS,
JOHN BRADEMAS,
PATSY T. MINK,
OGDEN REID,
WILLIAM A. STEIGER,

Managers on the Part of the House.

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